

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KS, US

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF KOREAN DEVELOPMENTS

1. WIRELESS FILE CARRYING FULL TEXT OF WASHINGTON POST
ARTICLE ON FONMIN STATEMENT AND OF NYTIMES INTERVIEW WITH
ROK AMBASSADOR HAHM. US PRESS HAS NOT YET PICKED UP ROKG
REPORT WHICH DEALS WITH KIM SANG-KUN CASE AND BUGGING
ALLEGATIONS IN MUCH HARSHER TERMS THAN FONMIN'S STATEMENT.

2. FOLLOWING IS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR DEPT SPOKESMAN
DECEMBER 29 ON HAHM INTERVIEW AND ON MYONGDONG APPEALS
SENTENCING:

QUOTE:

QUESTION: DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE LOSS
OF APPEAL AND THE REDUCTION IN SENTENCES FOR A NUMBER OF
KOREAN DISSIDENTS BY THE KOREAN APPEALS COURT?

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ANSWER: OUR DEEP CONCERN FOR THIS CASE AND FOR THE HUMAN
RIGHTS SITUATION IN KOREA IS WELL KNOWN, AND HAS BEEN
STATED PUBLICLY AND CONVEYED TO THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT
ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS.

QUESTION: THE NY TIMES THIS MORNING CARRIES AN INTERVIEW

WITH KOREAN AMBASSADOR HAHM IN WHICH HE CLAIMS THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS FAILED TO ASSIST THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT IN "GETTING OUT" OF THE CURRENT SITUATION. DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY COMMENT?

ANSWER: I HAVE NO COMMENT EXCEPT TO NOTE THAT WE HAVE HAD EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS AND CONTACTS WITH THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT ON THIS MATTER, AND WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE INVESTIGATION WILL OF COURSE BE PURSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH US LAW.

QUESTION: HOW DOES THIS AFFECT OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE KOREANS? IS IT AS DAMAGING AS THE AMBASSADOR APPEARS TO THINK?

ANSWER: AS WE HAVE SAID IN THE PAST, WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A CONTINUATION OF THE SUBSTANCE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP.

3. AT NOON BRIEFING DECEMBER 29 MYONGDONG CASE RAISED AND SLIGHT VARIANT OF GUIDANCE USED. IN RESPONSE FURTHER QUESTION, SPOKESMAN SAID OUR CONCERN CONVEYED IN CONTINUING CONTACTS WITH ROKG.

4. ASKED ABOUT ROKG STATEMENT ON BUGGING ASSURANCES, SPOKESMAN SAID THAT WE DO NOT COMMENT ON INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES AND THAT WE CANNOT CONFIRM OR DENY THE EXISTENCE OF ANY PRIVATE COMMENTS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN MADE ON SUCH ALLEGATIONS. ASKED ABOUT KIM SANG-KUN'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGREEMENT TO SEE ROKG OFFICIALS AND WHETHER KIM VOLUNTARILY IN US, SPOKESMAN USED PREVIOUS GUIDANCE.

ROBINSON

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